

## **ESSEX - MIDDLE RIVER COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN**

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### **40. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS SHOULD BE MADE MORE WIDELY ACCESSIBLE TO THE OLDER AREAS OF THE COUNTY.**

There currently exist very valuable leadership development programs under various auspices. These programs have some scholarship participation, but are primarily directed toward corporate entities members of whom are seeking to develop leadership skills within the metropolitan community. There should be increased funding of scholarships to the programs and greater dissemination of the availability of the programs within the community. Time is always a problem for the small business owner, not to mention the single parent, but those with an interest have always come forward, and the provision of leadership programs in a non-political context is critically important within the older communities.

## **S**OCIAL ENRICHMENT EDUCATION

Although many aspects of education further the development of the community, the enrichment of the individual person is still the primary function of education. In addition to the standard education opportunities available to individuals, there are some special programs that should be made available to members of the community to further their personal development.

### **41. PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE AREAS OF MOTIVATION AND LEADERSHIP.**

Volunteers have offered to conduct courses in employee motivation, leadership skills and techniques, shared decision making, and effective negotiation. These are skills that are useful in many contexts. Conflict resolution is another area that needs program development. The expansion of the resources of the Essex Library to a family resource center will also provide enrichment opportunities for individuals through the data base and educational information access.

### **42. PARENTING SKILL PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AT THE LIBRARY AND AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

In an atmosphere where resources are scarce, one's time with children is short, and given the negative cultural influences, strong parenting skills are very important. Stereotypical family situations are simply not the rule in today's society, and the skills which many of us inherited are simply not germane to the environment in which we find ourselves. Outreach to the families should be made to make attendance at these courses easier, and programs should be offered in an informal setting. These programs have been proven to be very useful, and the county should work toward their implementation.

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

### **43. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF BALTIMORE COUNTY A VOLUNTEER CLEARING HOUSE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED.**

There are a large number of people willing to volunteer their time and talents within the community. There should be a general clearinghouse of services which need volunteers with up-to-date contact information and a list of potential volunteers. There are services which could attract volunteers if the right people knew of their existence. Groups should submit their volunteer lists to a clearinghouse along with needs so that coordination of services and volunteers can occur more readily.

### **44. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SHOULD BECOME MORE COMMUNITY BASED.**

Franklin Square Hospital currently is working with the Tall Trees Community to locate services in the community center. This approach to local service delivery is one that should be duplicated elsewhere in the community. It is unrealistic to expect residents to take days off to get treatment except in emergency situations. Preventive medicine, however, greatly reduces ultimate medical problems and costs. Social services also should be more oriented to local centers to ease transportation problems and to encourage use.

### **45. SERVICE CARAVANS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR USE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

In many rural communities services are provided by caravan rather than at centers remote from the

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population. This concept was seen in Baltimore County with the bookmobiles. One non-profit service provider commented that his organization suffered from an "edifice complex," too rooted to bricks and mortar housing and not effectively delivering service to the needy. Government also thinks in terms of bricks and mortar, and a service caravan that travels through communities on a regular basis, maybe, using elementary schools as a site could deliver social service and housing information and applications, license and permit renewals, social service recertification, health services and immunizations, etc.

### **46. A SUBSTANCE ABUSE TASK FORCE SHOULD EVALUATE THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY.**

The issue of substance abuse touches the lives of many families in the study area and the availability of substance abuse programs is crucial to the wellness of the community. A task force should be established to evaluate the need for additional services and the effectiveness of current services.

## **E**CONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Economic development is the engine that drives the growth and stability of the community. People come to a community because of its proximity to work. People leave a community when there is no work to be found. It has been noted that the deterioration of a community begins when the jobs leave.

The fortunes of Essex - Middle River have swung like a pendulum on the fortunes of Bethlehem Steel and the Martin Company (now Lockheed - Martin). At their peak the companies employed over 80,000 people. Almost every family has had someone employed by those companies. With the switch to technology and the decline of "smokestack" industry in eastern Baltimore County, the jobs left, and today, the two companies combined employ less than 10,000. Housing, however, was built in the late 1950's and in the 1960's and 1970's in accordance with the Baltimore County Master Plan of the time to

